

BRIDGE ACROSS THE WHITE RIVER NEAR AUGUSTA,  
ARK.

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FEBRUARY 21, 1925.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. PARKS, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 12266]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12266) granting the consent of Congress to authorize R. L. Gaster, his successors and assigns, to construct a bridge across the White River, having considered the same, report thereon with amendment and as so amended recommend that it pass.

The bill as amended has the approval of the War and Agriculture Departments, as will appear by the letters attached and which are made a part of this report.

Amend the bill as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "Granting the consent of Congress to R. L. Gaster, his successors and assigns, to construct a bridge across the White River."

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
February 18, 1925.

Respectfully returned to the chairman Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives.

So far as the interests committed to this department are concerned, I know of no objection to the favorable consideration of the accompanying bill, H. R. 12266, Sixty-eighth Congress, second session, "Granting the consent of Congress to authorize R. L. Gaster, his successors and assigns, to construct a bridge across the White River," if amended as indicated in red thereon.

As the navigable portions of the White River do not lie within the limits of a single State the consent of Congress is required under section 9 of the river and harbor act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151), for the construction of a bridge thereover.

JOHN W. WEEKS, *Secretary of War.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, February 19, 1925.

Hon. SAMUEL E. WINSLOW,

Chairman Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,  
House of Representatives

DEAR MR. WINSLOW: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of February 13 inclosing a copy of H. R. 12266 for report thereon and for such views relative thereto as the department might desire to communicate.

This bill would authorize R. L. Gaster, and his successors and assigns, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the White River at or near the town of Augusta, Woodruff County, Ark. The site of the proposed structure is on the system of Federal aid highways approved for the State of Arkansas. The bridge undoubtedly will be a toll bridge, but provision is made in the bill whereby it may be acquired at any time by the State, or any political subdivision or division thereof, within or adjoining which it is located, by agreement or by condemnation, by the payment to the owners the reasonable value thereof, which shall not in any event exceed the construction cost thereof. Although the department would prefer to see a free bridge constructed at this point, it has no objection to offer to the bill, in view of the provision made therein whereby the State or its subdivisions may acquire the bridge at any time on a basis which shall not exceed the cost of its construction.

Sincerely,

HOWARD M. GORE, *Secretary.*